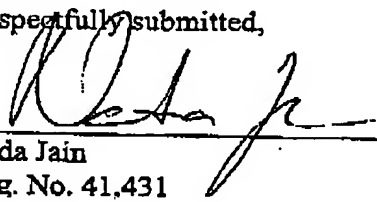


REMARKS

As required under 35 USC 120, the above-identified patent application is being amended to add a specific reference to its parent applications. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 12, 2004



Nada Jain
Reg. No. 41,431

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

NADA JAIN, P.C.
11 Georgia Lane
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520
Phone 914 238-4488

1010/102US3
March 12, 2004

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(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending application was filed on June 19, 2002, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

The statement contained in the instant petition is being construed as the statement required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3). Petitioner must notify the Office if this is not a correct interpretation of the statement contained in the instant petition.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed application was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application. See 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed nonprovisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application(s) under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application(s). In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application(s), all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is

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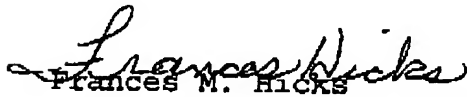
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entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 1654 for consideration by the Examiner of the amendment filed March 12, 2004, including applicant's claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (2) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Sherry D. Brinkley at 703-305-9220.



Frances M. Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
For Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt